

## David Mead

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**From:** Hallstedt, Eric <ehallstedt@regalfin.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 11, 2013 10:25 AM  
**To:** David Mead  
**Subject:** HB4576 and HB4714

Please reject these bills. Think longer term. To assume that taking money from the Federal government is free is folly. They will soon be struggling like Greece and then where will we be. When the wave turns on Obama Care lets be in a good position to come out ahead instead of too far gone to recover.

### Eric Hallstedt

*Registered Health Underwriter, Registered Employee Benefits Consultant*

2687 44th St. SE

Kentwood, MI 49512

Phone: 616.258.5012

Facsimile: 616.458.7402

[www.regalfin.com](http://www.regalfin.com)



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**David Mead**

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**From:** sridderhoff@comcast.net  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 11, 2013 10:01 AM  
**To:** David Mead  
**Subject:** HB 4576, HB4714

To Healthcare Committeemen,

I respectfully urge you to vote against HB 4576 and HB4714 relating to the implementation of Obamacare. Obamacare is so bad for the country and facilitating its implementation in our state is so bad for the citizens of MI. The federal government is extremely untrustworthy and no form of partnership with them should be entertained.

Thank you,

Susan Ridderhoff  
Jackson, MI

## David Mead

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**From:** Dotty & Joe Zwicker <djzusa56@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 11, 2013 12:45 PM  
**To:** David Mead; rick.snyder@michigan.gov  
**Subject:** NOTICE--Bills 4576 and 4714

Greetings:

We absolutely **oppose** bill's 4576 and 4714.. Our freedoms are slipping away and you people need to read history from 1939 till the end of WW II. NOW. Get your heads out of the sand!! The Zwicker's of Metamora MI.

## **David Mead**

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**From:** Stan Rogers <SProgers@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 11, 2013 1:44 PM  
**To:** David Mead  
**Subject:** HB 4576 & HB4714

**Dear Legislators;**

**The LAST thing we need to do is prop up Obamacare! And that is just what will happen by passing HB4576. Obamacare is purely bad law. It fails to fix the system, instead it complicates and limits our access to acceptable and preferred healthcare programs and increasing the costs at the same time.**

**The after effect on employers who will attempt to dodge the costs by limiting work hours will create a work force disaster, not to mention employee loss of income.**

**HB 4714 will expand medicare, (to stay competitive???)**. How does that make sense? For the first time in many years our State has cash in the bank, and now almost every politician wants to spread around the wealth on his/her pet projects. This is just another move to perpetuate the "Nanny State". How about creating a program what would entice people to get educated, find a job and become self-sufficient!  
**God bless America and our Great State.**

**Stan Rogers  
22215 Irongate  
Woodhaven, MI. 48183  
734-671-6797**

## David Mead

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**From:** robbye petit <rdwp86@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 11, 2013 2:53 PM  
**To:** David Mead  
**Subject:** HB 4576 & HB4714

Dear Honorable Sir:

Thank you so much for serving the beautiful state and people of Michigan. I am concerned about health care and health costs. **We in our family are opposed to what is known as Obamacare as well as the idea to expand Medicaid.**

Obama care is having a negative impact on my life, my oldest son's life, and the life of many that I care about. Hours are being capped at 30 per week so that businesses don't have to provide health care. The 30 hours or fewer work week doesn't provide enough paycheck to purchase health care for people whose main income is from this particular job. These are professional jobs and financially responsible people I'm talking about, not minimum wage, entry level positions or folks who carry consumer debt.

Sure, it's great that my son can remain on our insurance for about one more year, however, after he turns 25 what are the chances an employer will allow him to work 40 hours per week and pay his benefits which he will be in critical need of when he begins a family? *This is extremely aggravating to me.* Additionally, he will need the 40 hour work week *income*.

Our family has reached out to a young college man who is in very poor circumstances. He is a recipient of much government aid. He has a deep desire to get off the aid. We are helping him polish his job skills and provide food and encouragement. We have also helped another young woman and her young children. People do step up to help in real life. I just want you to know.

I have a friend who is a nurse, and was told by one of the doctors that he loses money on certain procedures. He considers this work his community service.

Additionally, in this country adults need to be at least minimally accountable for some self-care especially if they are receiving government --**tax payer**--funded services.

Government must not overstep into the personal lives the way it does. Let us appreciate the unique and diverse beneficial ideas of ever pioneering Americans and states and not acquiesce to a federally created, designed, and implemented health plan which is making me sick.

With Appreciative Regards,  
Robbye D. Petit  
Avoca, MI

## David Mead

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**From:** Carl Hubinger <ccarlhubinger@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 11, 2013 9:11 AM  
**To:** David Mead  
**Subject:** HB4576 & HB4714

Dear Sir:

Both bills are very bad for Michigan. Currently, 36 States have voted against supporting the insurance exchange. We can effectively nullify Obamacare by refusing to institute it. (Do you really want the IRS controlling our healthcare?)

Also, expanding Medicaid is counter-productive in attempting to create competition. Increases welfare.

Thank you,

Carl Hubinger, DDS, MS

## David Mead

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**From:** Elizabeth Gillanders <egillanders@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 11, 2013 9:22 AM  
**To:** David Mead  
**Subject:** HB4714

Dear Mr Mead:

Please note that I would like this letter sent each committee members concerning HB 4714 put into the record:

Thank You,  
Elizabeth Gillanders

I am writing this letter in protest of the latest attempt to push this horrible healthcare legislation down our throats. We have let you all know in no uncertain terms how we feel about this, not just in Michigan, but citizens across this country, 36 states, have not accepted the exchanges and want this bill repealed, and will not accept the backdoor tactics to keep this moving forward. Calling in Kathleen Sebelius does not change the fact that this legislation will destroy our healthcare system and as the government takes control, we will lose our individual control over every aspect of our ability to care for our health as well as destroy the private relationship we now have with our doctors. Are you willing to ignore the pleas for help from the citizens of this state and country, and continue on the path that has been set and accept the terms "dictated" by this government, and help to destroy our liberty and freedom to decide what is best for ourselves and our loved ones, or are you willing to stand up and fight for the people who sent you to represent them and the security and freedom that was given to us by our forefathers, as written in our Bill of Rights and our Constitution. I implore you to understand your constituents, understand the depth of a destructive path this country is on, the deceptive methods used to impose legislation on the public that only furthers the pain Americans will be subjected to when fully implemented, and vote against this latest attempt to co-op the people by bypassing their will and accepting the "temporary" candy being held out by the federal government. Look around you and ask just where all of this money is coming from as we try our best in the private sector to keep our heads above water. Vote against HB 4714 and help to put this state and this country on the right path.

Thank You

Elizabeth Gillanders

Precinct Delegate

**David Mead**

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**From:** Bonnie Bancroft <bancroftbonnie@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 11, 2013 9:55 AM  
**To:** David Mead  
**Subject:** No to Medicaid Expansion

Do not expand Medicaid in Michigan! Michigan does not need more problems. Obamacare is a disaster and we cannot afford expanding Medicaid.

Bonnie Bancroft  
Cheboygan, MI



## David Mead

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**From:** Randy Gainer <rtgainer@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 11, 2013 9:42 AM  
**To:** David Mead  
**Subject:** NO vote on HB 4714

Please please please do not vote to pass HB 4714! We have a big enough mess as is & just don't need the burden of HB 4714

## David Mead

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**From:** Marla Braun  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 11, 2013 2:48 PM  
**To:** David Mead  
**Subject:** HB 4714 sub adoption

Hello David!

Could you please give me the vote split on the adoption of the sub from committee today?

THANK YOU!

Marla Braun

Marla Rieli Braun  
Office of State Representative Mike Shirkey  
999 Anderson Office Bldg  
Lansing, MI 48909

517 373 1775 o

517 719 8352 c

## David Mead

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**From:** Jerry Freer <jfreer3833@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 11, 2013 10:38 AM  
**To:** David Mead  
**Subject:** HB4714

Michigan House;

I don't know what part of "broke" you people in Lansing don't understand but the "we the People" have had enough.

We are totally AGAINST the HB4714 legislation!

The majority of the people in America do not support Obama care, it is a bad bill for America. Small businesses in my town are already reducing peoples work hours just so they won't have to participate, young people will not buy into it because it will be so expensive, and there will end up being more people without health care than before the law was enacted.

Just how good is Obama care, do you see any body in Washington signing up for it! And something else to think about - the IRS will be involved in enacting the law.

Also:

Raising the gas tax is ridiculous. High gas prices (\$4.29) is the principal reason people are not driving/buying gas, reducing the amount of current tax being taken in. If you want more gas tax money, lower gas prices so people can afford it.

Cameras at red lights - is it being considered to reduce accidents or just a way of getting revenue?

Please don't turn me over to the IRS, I am afraid its to late for NSA. What ever happened to the America I grew up in?

Thank you

Gerald Freer

## David Mead

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**From:** William Miller <netview04@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 11, 2013 10:40 AM  
**To:** David Mead  
**Subject:** HB 4714

Please add my comments to the testimony to be given on HB 4714.

Expansion of the Medicaid program would help only the Federal Government by gaining more control over our health and our lives. While the promised starting funds seems tempting, more problems would develop than we could handle in Michigan when we no longer have control in the situation.

First, I see the hospital emergency facilities becoming overwhelmed by those covered by Medicaid but unable to obtain treatment by a Doctor.

Second, rural areas would be most affected when more doctors retire without replacements. Many others will stop treating patients without funds to pay at the time of the treatments because of low medicaid reimbursements. Without a local Doctor the rural patients will have to take more time and spend more transportation money to get to a hospital emergency room for treatment.

It is urgent that HB 4714 not be accepted.

William Miller, Auburn, MI

## David Mead

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**Sent:** Tuesday, June 11, 2013 10:40 AM  
**To:** David Mead  
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It is urgent that HB 4714 not be accepted.

William Miller, Auburn, MI

## David Mead

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**From:** Brian Fullford <bfullford@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 11, 2013 11:05 AM  
**To:** Rep. Frank Foster  
**Cc:** Rep. Mike Shirkey (District 65); Rep. Ken Yonker; Rep. Gail Haines (District 43); Rep. Kevin Cotter; David Mead; Rep. Dave Pagel (District 78); Rep. Tom Leonard (District 93); Rep. Dan Lauwers (District 81); Rep. Ken Goike; Rep. Ray Franz  
**Subject:** Medicaid Expansion

Dear Frank:

Given the tragic events that are unfolding almost daily due to the bloat from the run away Federal Government, I hope you find enough sense to NOT support any expansion of Obama's take over of our Health Care system. Forget the carrot, because it will become a huge Michigan taxpayer expense in 3 years. This carrot is just another gimmick – the kind Granholm used which got Michigan in trouble.

We know the implications and the problems Obamacare will have when fully implemented. Please don't enable the process which came into law under the cloak of rule changes, and without Republican input or support in Washington DC. Everyone must fight the Fed's for their unending over reach and desire for centralization and power.

We elected you to follow conservative values, which includes limited government

Sincerely,

Brian K. Fullford  
Cheboygan County Republican Precinct Delegate & Business owner  
Indian River, Michigan  
Cell Phone: 231-420-9199

## David Mead

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**From:** Ruth Cod <michliberty@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 11, 2013 11:08 AM  
**To:** Rep. Kevin Cotter; Rep. Frank Foster; Rep. Ray Franz; Rep. Ken Goike; Rep. Gail Haines (District 43); Rep. Dan Lauwers (District 81); Rep. Tom Leonard (District 93); Rep. Dave Pagel (District 78); Rep. Mike Shirkey (District 65); Rep. Ken Yonker; David Mead  
**Subject:** Vote No on H.B. 4714

"In a time of deceit telling the truth is a revolutionary act."

— George Orwell

"If liberty means anything at all, it means the right to tell people what they do not want to hear."

— George Orwell

June 11, 2013

Dear Michigan House Representative,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to H.B. 4714. Based upon the research that I have done it is a BAD BILL.

Thank you,

Ruth Cod

**David Mead**

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**From:** wallyberndt@juno.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 11, 2013 12:18 PM  
**To:** David Mead; rick.snyder@michigan.gov  
**Subject:** Vote NO on these Bills

Dear Sirs:

My name is Wally Berndt of Cassopolis, Michigan. Please enter into the record my objection to HB-4576 and HB-4714. The people have stood in oposition to these attempt in the past and we remain in oposition. Take the steps nessissary to reject these bad Bills.

Thank You . . . Wally Berndt - 63476 Pierson Road - Cassopolis, MI. 49031 - (269) 445-3010



## David Mead

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**From:** i Mac <apackoftwo@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 11, 2013 10:33 AM  
**To:** Rep. Mike Shirkey (District 65); Rep. Ken Yonker; Rep. Gail Haines (District 43); Rep. Kevin Cotter; Rep. Frank Foster; Rep. Ray Franz; Rep. Ken Goike; Rep. Dan Lauwers (District 81); Rep. Tom Leonard (District 93); Rep. Dave Pagel (District 78); District 14; Rep. Jim Townsend; Rep. Andy Schor (District 68); Rep. Harvey Santana (District 9); Rep. Kate Segal (District 62)  
**Cc:** David Mead; Speaker James Bolger (District 63)  
**Subject:** I OPPOSE HB 4714  
**Importance:** High

Committee Clerk, **Please submit this e-mail into the public testimony record and distribute copies to Committee members**

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members,

**I oppose HB 4714 for the following reasons:**

June 11, 2013

Although I appreciate attempts at reform HB 4714 is still a Medicaid Expansion bill

And as a reminder the Medicaid Expansion is part of the PPCA that the SCOTUS in its ruling deemed unenforceable (and therefore likewise a state exchange is unenforceable) on the states as Medicaid itself is a voluntary program

And since the Dept of Community Health (DCH) will be using the **Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI)** system to determine eligibility **the numbers will be higher than previously estimated by the Governor.**

*(Enroll nondisabled adults with an annual income level **below 133% of the federal poverty guidelines** who meet the citizenship provisions of 42 CFR 435.406(a) -(\$ 435.406 Citizenship and alienage.)*

Despite gratuitous platitudes used by those who would benefit financially from a Medicaid Expansion, there is no direct correlation to the amount you spend on a government program and its quality.

**Coverage for the poor should not be synonymous with poor coverage**

Further research and cites may be found at <http://grassrootsmichigan.com/?p=3049>

In a recent study the "The Oregon Experiment" <<http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMsa1212321>> , " in the **New England Journal of Medicine** and measured several health areas, like blood pressure, glycated hemoglobin, cholesterol and depression. **The report compared two groups of similar people: one group in the state's Medicaid program and another that was not enrolled in the state's Medicaid program.** Mean values and absolute changes in clinical outcomes and health outcomes with Medicaid coverage. **"We found no significant effect of Medicaid coverage on the prevalence or diagnosis of hypertension or high cholesterol levels or on the use of medication for these conditions,"** the study said. "Medicaid coverage significantly increased the probability of a diagnosis of diabetes and the use of diabetes medication, but we observed no significant effect on average glycated hemoglobin levels or on the percentage of participants with levels of 6.5 percent or higher."

Additionally, According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, a high percentage of doctors are saying that they will not accept Medicaid patients.

If a doctor is paid \$100 to see a patient with private insurance, \$70 to see a Medicare patient, and \$56 to see a Medicaid patient, which kind of patient is he most likely to want to see?

In the area of finding **fraud** the Department of Community Health (DCH) received a grade of " **moderately effective**" in several audit reports on Michigan's Medicaid program issued January of this year. Michigan's Auditor General found incidents of fraud and over payment of hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars. **I won't go into \*details but the results are included in the copies of my testimony.**

**Further, Each state that declines to expand Medicaid relieves strain on the overall federal budget.** <<http://goldwaterinstitute.org/blog/states-can-impose-fiscal-discipline-washington>> Which is Michigan taxpayer money also.

**However, I would like to bring up another aspect that is getting no discussion is that Medicaid is means-tested. This means people must remain poor to receive it.**

States do have some flexibility in how they administer their Medicaid programs, but they operate under many federal guidelines, regulations, and restrictions. Bureaucratic and inefficient structure of Medicaid directly harms those it is intended to benefit.

Medicaid causes welfare dependency, which leads to poorer health habits and outcomes. There is virtually no incentive to work and all incentive not to work.

Those who ignore this problem will never be able to empirically assess the underperformance of Medicaid.

Do we want thousands more of Michiganders to be trapped in a broken program where they are undeserved and causes welfare dependency ?

There are solutions being implemented

Such as Inland Dental Expanded Access Clinic, in Spokane, WA a clinic for uninsured or underinsured patients staffed by volunteer dentists.

The IDEA Clinic is a project of the Spokane District Dental Society Foundation, and it offers comprehensive dental care on a sliding fee scale. It also offers access to dental specialists like oral surgeons.

"That's a biggie. For people on Medicaid, it's very difficult to get access to specialists," Wesley said. "Typically, they go to the ER if they have a dental emergency. The ER offers them painkillers and antibiotics and sends them home. That is it."

Wesley said many Medicaid patients can't afford to fill two prescriptions so they choose the painkiller because it will let them function. That leaves the infection untreated, potentially causing a more dangerous health problem.

"As taxpayers we are on the hook for the \$1,400 the ER visit costs and the patient often returns to the ER several times, because they have nowhere else to go," Wesley said. "If the patient came in here treatment would cost, maybe, \$300 instead."

In closing, I urge the members of the Committee to reject this bill and focus on real solutions. Michigan has an opportunity to be a leader in innovative solutions that can serve as a model to the rest of the country, with the ultimate goal of removing herself from this broken, flawed, corrupt voluntary Federal Program.

Thank you

Joan Fabiano

Holt, MI 48842

**Grassroots in Michigan** <<http://grassrootsmichigan.com>>

*"The appropriation of public money always is perfectly lovely until some one is asked to pay the bill.."* President Calvin Coolidge

<<http://www.spokesman.com/>>

**January 3, 2013**

**Dental clinic offers affordable relief for Medicaid users, uninsured**

Pia Hallenberg <<http://www.spokesman.com/staff/pia-hallenberg/>>

The Spokesman-Review

Tags:dental care <<http://www.spokesman.com/tags/dental-care>> dental health

<<http://www.spokesman.com/tags/dental-health>> IDEA Clinic <<http://www.spokesman.com/tags/idea-clinic>>  
medicaid <<http://www.spokesman.com/tags/medicaid>>

Dental hygienist Stacy McKay, left, assists volunteer dentist Dr. Amir Ganji as he performs an exam on a patient who has a toothache on Dec. 10 at the IDEA Clinic at the Northeast Community Center.

**IDEA Clinic**

Where: Northeast Community Center, 4001 N. Cook St.

What: Dental clinic focuses on care for adult Medicaid users and the uninsured through a sliding fee scale.

On the Web: [www.sddsfoundation.org](http://www.sddsfoundation.org) <<http://www.sddsfoundation.org>>

The quiet at the Riverstone Family Dental Clinic on a recent Monday morning was like the quiet before a storm.

At least that's what the people behind the IDEA Clinic, located at Riverstone Family Health Center at the Northeast Community Center, were hoping.

"There will be more patients this afternoon," said Dr. John Wesley, IDEA Clinic director. "But, yes, we need to get some cheeks in the seats."

IDEA stands for Inland Dental Expanded Access Clinic, a clinic for uninsured or underinsured patients staffed by volunteer dentists, and it opens this month. Wesley has been there since November, and the clinic is so new it still smells more like paint than dental office.

"We have 16 dental chairs here, four of which are run by the IDEA clinic," Wesley said. Riverstone Family Health Center is part of the Yakima Valley Farm Workers network of clinics. It opened last January. The IDEA Clinic is a project of the Spokane District Dental Society Foundation, and it offers comprehensive dental care on a sliding fee scale. It also offers access to dental specialists like oral surgeons. "That's a biggie. For people on Medicaid, it's very difficult to get access to specialists," Wesley said. "Typically, they go to the ER if they have a dental emergency. The ER offers them painkillers and antibiotics and sends them home. That is it."

Wesley said many Medicaid patients can't afford to fill two prescriptions so they choose the painkiller because it will let them function. That leaves the infection untreated, potentially causing a more dangerous health problem.

"As taxpayers we are on the hook for the \$1,400 the ER visit costs and the patient often returns to the ER several times, because they have nowhere else to go," Wesley said. "If the patient came in here treatment would cost, maybe, \$300 instead."

Medicaid covers one X-ray, one limited exam and one tooth extraction during a visit, but Wesley points out that the IDEA Clinic is not just about pulling teeth.

"We hope we can offer comprehensive care and that the sliding fee scale will let people take some responsibility for their own dental health," he said. "It can be very difficult to find a dentist who will accept Medicaid."

There are more than 370 members of the dental society and Wesley said the clinic's goal is to have every dentist volunteer one day a year.

"That would cover the year for us," Wesley said. "You can't do something like this if you don't have the support of the dental society and we do to the extreme. It's great."

The IDEA Clinic is funded by the fees patients pay and by donations and volunteer hours given by members of the dental society. It has also received grants from, among others, the Murdock Foundation, Empire Health Foundation and local businesses such as Aurum Group Dental Laboratory.

The IDEA Clinic has the potential to treat 4,000 patients a year, with a focus on adult Medicaid dental users. More than 12,000 individuals fall into that category in Spokane County, and statistics compiled by the Spokane Regional Health District show that oral health-related visits to local emergency rooms are up by more than 100 percent over the past five years.

Wesley said badly decayed or missing teeth are not only painful, but also sometimes keep people from getting jobs.

"Some of the people we have already seen are in so much pain, I don't know how they do it," said Wesley.

"They do it because they don't have a choice. Maybe we can help with that."

Get more news and information at [Spokesman.com](http://www.spokesman.com/) <<http://www.spokesman.com/>>

**\*In the area of Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies – Performance Audit – 391-0717-12** <[http://audgen.michigan.gov/finalpdfs/12\\_13/r391071712.pdf](http://audgen.michigan.gov/finalpdfs/12_13/r391071712.pdf)> (DMEPOS) the auditor found that DCH was "moderately effective" and found improper payments of \$997,000 (approximately \$293,000 General Fund/general purpose) and potential improper payments of up to \$1,600,000 (approximately \$470,000 General Fund/general purpose). DCH issued \$341,000 (approximately \$100,000 General Fund/general purpose) in duplicate payments to the same provider that submitted a claim multiple times with a different modifier

**DCH did not ensure that it prevented, detected, and recovered duplicate payments for DMEPOS**

**In another audit, Medicaid Pharmacy Services – Performance Audit – 391-0116-12**

**<[http://audgen.michigan.gov/finalpdfs/12\\_13/r391011612.pdf](http://audgen.michigan.gov/finalpdfs/12_13/r391011612.pdf)>**

The auditor found:

**DCH did not identify and recover Medicaid pharmaceutical drug payments made on behalf of beneficiaries who were Medicare eligible**

**We estimate that DCH could recover up to \$15.3 million (\$5.4 million General Fund/general purpose) in pharmaceutical claims that were originally paid by Medicaid but are the financial responsibility of Medicare (Federal)**

For example:

**DCH did not always ensure that it notified the PBM of deceased service providers. As a result, 324 pharmacies were reimbursed \$89,000 (\$31,000 General Fund/general purpose) for prescriptions written after the date of death of 82 deceased service providers**

**DCHs efforts to identify and recover payments for pharmaceutical drugs covered by Medicare were moderately effective**

**David Mead**

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**From:** Andrea Blachford <crotoncrier@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 11, 2013 9:32 AM  
**To:** David Mead  
**Subject:** Medicaid Expansion

Please pass this Press Release to the Michigan Competitiveness Committee members. Please do not vote for Medicaid Expansion.

**State-wide Grassroots Activists Open Letter to Governor Snyder**

Lansing - With the announcement of Governor Snyder's intent to call in Health and Human Services (HHS) secretary Kathleen Sebelius to help further expand Medicaid in Michigan despite overwhelming opposition from the majority of Representatives who represent the people of Michigan, GOP and Conservative grassroots have issued an Open Letter to Governor Snyder.

Joan Fabiano of Grassroots in Michigan says, "After relentlessly pushing the Obamacare Exchange, the calling in of HHS secretary Kathleen Sebelius by Governor Snyder to basically strong arm our Representatives and therefore us into implementing a Medicaid Expansion in Michigan is the proverbial straw that has broken the camel's back for grassroots activists and in no way represents Conservatives nor the GOP platform."

Conservative activists and small business owner Jason Gillman says, "The governor seems to have a

drive to settle the short term costs of big government on the backs of those who will be paying for it long after he is gone." Gillman goes on to say,

"Obamacare is not likely to survive the next two years anyhow, and Michiganders will be stuck with a bloated bureaucracy that has no purpose. Frankly, we don't need Washington to be involved in our health care services in any way."

Abigail Nobel, BSN, RN-BC and conservative activist, says, "Michigan is not well-served by the Medicaid Program. Expanding it promotes a political agenda rather than the health of individuals or the economy."

The following is an open letter to Governor Snyder authored by Jen Kuznicki, Republican Chair of Presque Isle County and Conservative activist, and endorsed by statewide grassroots activists.

**Tough Love for the Tough Nerd; Why Conservatives should sit out the Governor's re-election.**

There comes a time when a political line in the sand must be drawn to preserve institutions. It is our estimation that Governor Snyder has gone too far by seeking help from one of the most polarizing figures in modern history, a representative of the most destructive American President of our history as a nation, to try to strong arm moderate voices in his own party into passing a bankrupt Michigan on to our children. The representatives of the people of Michigan have been listening to us. We have worked with

them, helping them understand our concerns as taxpayers in this state, of radically altering a broken Medicaid system to accept half a million more uninsured, reportedly at no cost to our state, and very little in the future. We do not believe any government program could ever follow through on such a promise, and are appalled that the voice of the people means so little to the Governor of this State.

It is with careful consideration that we decide on a course of action that is, in our view, politically problematic, but nonetheless a forthright answer to a governor who will not listen to his base: Conservatives should not help this Governor get reelected.

Wild expansion of the Federal Government has left this nation with \$17 Trillion in debt, and \$90 Trillion in unfunded liabilities. Governor Snyder's claim that the deal he intends to make with this egregiously irresponsible and cold-hearted federal leviathan regarding Medicaid expansion, is false on its face. He continues to claim that Michigan taxpayers will not foot the bill of expansion, but that the federal government will.

The Conservative points out that we are all taxpayers of both the State of Michigan and the insatiable federal government, that Medicaid is a broken system, costing taxpayers millions, rife with corruption and all the while not providing



the very service it was created for, decent health care for the poor.

Unsustainable consequences of the passing of the "Affordable" Care Act will leave millions without a job, and millions with cut hours and wages.

**Those consequences** lead us to believe that expansion will overwhelm the system, rip off doctors, temporarily prop up hospitals, all leading to requests for more taxpayer funding on both the State and Federal levels.

Medicaid expansion is not solely a fiscal issue, it gets to the heart of the role of government in our lives. Take into consideration the life of a restaurant worker who has been working full time. Due to Obamacare, he will be facing a cut in hours because of the fees placed upon his employer by the cynical law. He will lose his health insurance as a result, and he will be eligible for Medicaid if the state expands it. You have, at the hands of government, changed that man's life from being a hard-working climber to one that has been knocked back by a government he is in charge of. He has lost half of his income so that the government can manage his life.

The entire premise of government-run health care is predicated on the notion that those in power know what is good for you, and in exercising its governing, positions itself to control every aspect of your life. This agenda is not a Conservative, nor a Republican direction for this

nation, and in fact, it is the antithesis of our representative Republic.

The Obama administration has pulled the Democrat party so far to the left, that many rank and file are disturbed at its turn. When the Republican Governor of this state actively pursues with speed and urgency, the consultation of "some will live, some will die," HHS Secretary Sebelius, he does not work to understand the people of his state, and purposefully sticks a finger in the eye of his own conservative base. A conservative base that is expanding and could include the disaffected of the Democrat party, if only the "Tough Nerd" would take a tough stand for liberty.

In order to preserve the principles and legacy of the Republican Party in Michigan, it is our view that a line must be drawn. The platform of the Republican party calls for a restoration of Constitutional government, at a time when the leadership of the country is systematically shredding our Bill of Rights, and taking more and more of our autonomy away on a promise from mere politicians.

Whether the Governor is described as a "quirky" Republican, a "liberal" Republican, or a "moderate" Republican, he should at least respect the will of the people in his own state, the platform [1] and people in his own party. Going over the heads of the people to a federal bureaucrat who relishes her position of lone

arbiter of life and death, exposes this Governor as unwilling to compromise, favoring the heavy hand of government, defying his own party's stated goals.

We cannot with good conscience, endorse by vote or encouragement, this Governor's reelection.

Jen Kuznicki, Conservative activist, Republican  
Chair of Presque Isle County

Signed by:

Joan Fabiano, Founder, Grassroots in Michigan,  
Ingham County GOP precinct delegate, small  
business owner

Jen Kuznicki, Conservative activist, Republican  
Chair of Presque Isle County

Jason Gillman, Traverse City, Small Business  
Owner, GOP precinct delegate and former Grand  
Traverse County County Commissioner Conservative  
activist, RightMichigan.com

Isabelle Terry, Rockford, GOP State Committee  
member, Vice President Gerald R. Ford Republican  
Women, Precinct Delegate Courtland Twnshp 1,

Deb O'Hagan, West Bloomfield, founder Lakes Area  
Tea Party; member OCRP Executive Committee;  
formerly 9th district State Committeewoman;  
current president Bloomfield RWC; GOP Precinct  
Delegate.

Elizabeth Gillanders GOP Precinct Delegate,  
Grassroots Activist

Tina DuPont, Founder Tea Party of West Michigan,  
former GOP state Committee member

Abigail Nobel, BSN, RN-BC; GOP Precinct Delegate, Salem Twp, Allegan Co; Hillsdale's Graduate School of Statesmanship.

Dennis Marburger, Bloomfield Hills, activist,  
Tim Bos, Waterford, Conservative Activist,  
Gene Clem, Kalamazoo, South West Michigan Patriots

Cindy Gamrat BSN, RN, Plainwell, Presidential Elector 6th District, Executive Committee Member Allegan County, Founder - Plainwell Patriots  
Tanya Hill, Conservative activist, Alpena County GOP Executive Committee Member

Mary MacMaster -Lake Orion, Former 15 year volunteer secretary/treasurer of the Oakland County Taxpayers Assoc.

Stephenie Jacobson, Leader Cheboygan Tea Party Patriots, GOP Precinct Delegate, Small Business Owner

Patty McMurray and Leisa Audette, 100% Fed Up

Vickie Kahle Milford, GOP precinct delegate

Randy Jasky, Editor/Webmaster - FedUpUSA

Stefanie Jasky, Director at FedUpUSA

Mike Ried, Holt, Grassroots Activist

Thomas Biggs DVM, GOP Precinct Delegate, Manistee County

Tammy Hyatt, steering team leader, We the People of Mid-Michigan,  
GOP precinct delegate.

David Dudenhoefer GOP state Committee member, Wayne County, Conservative activist

Jeri LeRoi, East Bay Township, Parks Commission

Rosemarie DeLoof, Chair of Ludington Area TeaParty

Mason County Republican Executive Committee

*Rattle With Us TEA Party members:*

William A. Kostin, Plymouth (Precinct Delegate)

Denis Curran, Livonia (Precinct Delegate)

Florence Giummo

David Begley

Richard Tenaglia

Lynette Tenaglia

Duane Zantop, Plymouth

Dave Osborn, Plymouth (Precinct Delegate, Wayne-  
11th Republican Committee)

**Editor's Note**

**[1] 2012 GOP Platform**

[http://www.scribd.com/doc/110097221/2012-GOP-  
Platform](http://www.scribd.com/doc/110097221/2012-GOP-Platform)

Andrea Blachford